

Saturday afternoon
~~July~~ 28, 1942

Seya Gang, -

Here tis another weekend and I'm sitting on the flight line waiting my turn to fly which will be in about an hour. 14 oclock to be exact! Once I start, I fly for 2 hrs. + 15 min., coming back to the field at the end of the first hour to drop my instructor. In other words, - I fly dual the first hour + solo the next 1 hr 15 min. We are starting acrobatics, or more properly aerobatics and they are right much fun. Yesterday we did some and I just began to get the hang of 'em when we quit. How much I remember of this today remains to be seen! I hate to shock him by letting him see how small the amount is!

I only got about 6 or seven hours in this week, not counting today's. The weather has been swell - that is, no rain, - but, ye gods, the wind! - It has been blowing from 40 to 60 mph at 3 and 4000 ft. During the afternoons this tends to work to the surface, and while they lose some of their velocity at lower levels, - its been most too much to really learn anything. - Yes, - we go up in it, - but I said to learn! I haven't had my 20 hr. check yet, but I'm sure

to get it this week. - If I get it, I do it, if I don't do it, - well, I didn't do it! - There's still no telling the way they keep on washing fellows out. - We have five or six go out each day, and believe me, it's no disgrace. But honestly, - in this wind, - some of 'em haven't the slightest chance when they go up for checks. They might as well just kick them out and save the gas for in lots of cases, it's pure murder. But I guess they are just some of the breaks you get in this game. - Me, - I just keep my fingers crossed and keep plugging! -

You should see my face! - I'm getting a real case of "goggle eyes" - The wind + sun burns my face so while flying that where my helmet covers my face, there's an abrupt change of color even tho my whole face is very burnt. And where the goggles fit over my eyes - he - you've seen pictures of people who went asleep at the beach with sun glasses on? - Well, - that's me! The glass of the goggles must filter out the sun's rays, so I have about 2 inches of white around each eye! - I think I'll join a circus! - But that's an aviators trade mark, so I can't complain. The only objection I have is that it might kill me. Every time I shave I get to laughing at myself and I'm not sure just where the razor is shaving.

AIR CORPS
TRAINING DETACHMENT



CHICKASHA

OKLAHOMA

One of these days I'll probably have to stoop over and pick my head up off the floor after I cut my neck!

Gotta stop now - gotta go upstairs for a while and see how St. Peter is getting along. - Eyes - while I'm thinking of it - I got my razor blades & cream - thanks a lot, Pop. -

I got paid yesterday. I drew \$96. That is supposed to clear me with the exception of this month, of course. I figure I have a little more coming - but if I have, I'll get it eventually, so I'll not worry over it. -

I really gotta go now - so bye for a while.

Sunday A. M. -

Well, - I made it! - I got all the way up stairs and back again with only 4 clouds getting in the way! - I sorta bumped them and they moved right over. - Guess that ol' propeller suits a little.

Last night was the night of our dance for the upper-classmen. - I had off about an hour & $\frac{1}{2}$ I turned night & about 3 hrs. yesterday morning, to help with the decorations. Then last night at the dance I had to look up and see that the refreshments were being served. - It almost made me homesick for the P. A. U.

it was so near "my kind of work"! -

I went into town about supper time and flew myself to a steak dinner - a real one! - after that - I other catches - a west Pointer - and I just bussed around town for a while and went to the movie. - When we got out of the movie we all went out to the "country club" to the dance.

It was a pretty swell affair. All decorations were in red, white, & blue - with poppers & stuff hanging around. On the walls were cartoons drawn by one of the boys depicting Donald Duck in the different phases of our flying here. - For refreshments we had as I told you before we would have - cokes, cookies, large layer cakes, crackers - sorta like cheese n'z - and a punch. - The punch had been frozen and allowed to thaw so it was served "slushy". Everyone was there, of course. - The lads didn't know how they got home. - Our commanding officers and everyone were "well heeled" - I took a pint of Seagrams along and gave it to my flight instructor. - I told him I thought it would help him to "look" without taking off, first! I never saw so much liquor in my life - and to think Oklahoma is a dry state! - Me, oh my! - I got tired & disgusted about midnight and came on home. - You don't appreciate drunks unless you get drunk with em. The fellows told me it was near to a brawl towards the end! - Me. - I wouldn't know - I had a good night's sleep. - I'm having a hard enough time getting this course without adding a "big head" to it! - I forgot to tell you - the large cakes were decorated the same as the front of the invitations were. - And there's a story that needs go with the decoration.

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CHICKASHA

OKLAHOMA

There is an indian pulling a small airplane with a string (like a kid does a toy) and the small plane is called "Maytag". - The story is this: - The fellows call the plane that the officers give their check rides in "Maytag". - In other words - it's the "washing machine" for the "wash-outs" I'm sending a copy of the invitation so you can see what I mean.

Had my picture "took" the other day. - They are getting up some sort of a year book and all of us were taken. - I poses sorta like I had made in San Antonio & I'm a flying outfit. - The proofs will be back this week I guess - Hope they are good.

I just wrote the California Loopses. - I got a nice letter from 'em the day before I left Kelly and I've been waiting to find it to answer it. - I still can't find it or I'd send it to you - I just wrote a note -

also - had a letter from Roy which I'll send. - He has been & is still in the hospital again. It seems he wasn't completely well the first time and ~~expects~~ they put him to digging in the rain just after he had gotten out. - He expects to be out in a week or so and said maybe he could get a couple of weeks furlough. -

Are about all went out now so better stop. - Glad you had a good time on your anniversary. -

Love
Frank